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There seems to be no doubt that Liutprand is referring to a miracle play and that his use of the contemptuous *leues* indicates not only disapproval, but also the prejudice of previous unfamiliarity. Krumbacher³ takes the same view of the passage, concluding with the remark:

"So kann er nichts anderes meinen als eine Art von Mysterienspiel."

Possibly additional references at similar performances might be found in Sathas' *Ἱστορικὸν δοκίμιον περὶ τοῦ θεάτρου καὶ τῆς μουσικῆς τῶν Βυζαντινῶν*, Venice, 1878, a work which is unfortunately not accessible to me.

An interesting question arises as to whether the miracle play developed independently in Constantinople and in Italy, or whether the idea was introduced into western Europe by the pilgrims, crusaders and merchants who frequented Constantinople so generally from the tenth to the thirteenth centuries.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

Yale University.

"THE DEVIL AND DOCTOR FOSTER."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—This interesting expression, which at once suggests a relationship with the *Faust-sage*, is used, or to speak more accurately, has been used, with considerable frequency as an everyday phrase in certain parts of Maryland and West Virginia.

It is not so popular to-day as it was twenty-five years ago and is confined to Maryland, more particularly, although by no means exclusively to the northern part of the state. The fact of its usage in other parts of America would seem, however, to preclude the possibility of its being a provincialism. The origin of the saying is probably to be found in the confusion of the common English name Foster with Doctor Faustus—the transition being by no means phonologically impossible. However, to speak with certainty concerning its origin, a fairly complete knowledge of its distribution is necessary. This brief note has therefore been written in the hope that some

³ *Gesch. der Byzantinischen Litteratur*, pp 297-298.

one may be able to contribute something which may lead to the satisfactory explanation of an interesting expression that is fast going out of use.

THOMAS STOCKHAM BAKER.

Johns Hopkins University.

PERSONAL.

Prof. Edward E. Hale, Jr., A.B. (Harvard) 1883, Ph. D. (Halle) 1892, has been called from the State, University of Iowa to Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., as Professor of Rhetoric and Logic.

Mr. Wm. Peters Reeves A.B. (J. H. U.) 1889, Ph. D. (J. H. U.) 1893 has been appointed Instructor in Rhetoric at Union College.

Mr. James P. Kinard, Graduate of the South Carolina Military Academy, 1886, Ph. D., Johns Hopkins University (Oct. 1895), has been elected Professor of English and History at the Winthrop Normal and Industrial College, Rock Hill, S. C. Mr. Kinard has prepared a dissertation on *Wulfstan's Homilies in regard to Style and Sources*, which will be published.

It is announced that Dr. F. H. Sykes of the Johns Hopkins University has been appointed Professor of English in the Western University of London, Ont. The Arts faculty of this University, which has just been established, is the third of its faculties, the Divinity faculty dating from 1863, and the Medical from 1882. Other members of the new faculty are the Rev. B. Watkins, late Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, Professor of Classics, and the Rev. C. B. Guillemont, of the Academy of Paris, Professor of Modern Languages.

Dr. Sykes is an honor graduate of the University of Toronto and was scholar and fellow of the English department of the Johns Hopkins University, receiving his doctor's degree in 1894 on a dissertation dealing with French Elements in Middle English. During the past year he lectured in the graduate department of the Johns Hopkins University on Romanic influences on English.

Mr. Glen Levin Swiggett has just been placed in charge of the German Department of Purdue University (La Fayette, Ind.).

Having been appointed Instructor of French and German in the University of Michigan in 1890 (see MOD. LANG. NOTES, Vol. v, p. 223), Mr. Swiggett devoted some time to work on the Canadian-French dialects, and in 1892-1893 spent a year in graduate work in the Johns Hopkins University. From 1893 to 1895 he served as Instructor of Modern Languages in Indianapolis academies and in the Plymouth Institute of that city, passing thence to his present position.